

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending November 16, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 48 percent adequate and 52 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included harvesting corn and soybeans; fall plowing; spreading manure, lime and fertilizer; planting wheat and barley; caring for livestock; storing machinery; preparing for winter and cutting firewood.

Crops: As some regions of Pennsylvania saw snow flurries last week, much of the State saw rain showers returning to slow field work. Nearly all of the Commonwealth experienced strong winds causing crop and property damage. Acres of corn harvested for grain advanced to 76 percent complete, 13 percent behind last year and 7 percent behind the five year average. Soybean acres harvested improved to 66 percent complete, 16 percent below the five year average but 5 percent ahead for the same week one year ago. Fall tillage advanced very little to 70 percent complete, but is still 14 percent behind the five-year average. Nearly all of winter wheat has been planted and 87 percent of the planted acres have emerged. The winter wheat crop was rated as 14 percent fair, 69 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Virtually all the barley has been planted and nearly all planted acres have emerged. With fourth cutting of alfalfa advancing slightly to 92 percent complete, the quality of hay made last week was rated as 31 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 15 percent good and 2 percent was excellent.

Livestock: Pasture conditions across Pennsylvania continue to decline with the season. Fourteen percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 20 percent was rated poor, 27 percent was rated fair, 30 percent was rated good and 9 percent was rated excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Apple harvest is virtually complete across the State.

U.S. As of November 9, 2003: Average temperatures for the week were well below normal in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, northern and central Great Plains, and western Corn Belt. Most of North Dakota remained below freezing throughout the

week. Large areas of the northern Rocky Mountains had no snow cover to protect emerging winter wheat from the frigid temperatures. Meanwhile, temperatures were well above normal across the Southeast up through the middle Atlantic Coast States, setting daily record highs in some locations. Precipitation was heavy in the middle Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas of the Great Lakes. In the eastern Corn Belt, mostly dry weather prevailed. The Great Plains was mostly dry, but some areas received light to moderate rainfall. The Southwest and Pacific Northwest also had little precipitation, though northern California and southwestern Oregon had some moderate rainfall. Conditions were generally favorable for fieldwork across the Mississippi Delta and Southeast. Precipitation was moderate through the southern and central Appalachians and light across the Northeast. Corn: Ninety-one percent of the acreage was harvested, 6 percentage points above last year but the same as the 5-year average. Harvest progressed rapidly in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, as producers took advantage of mostly dry weather. However, the region remained well behind normal, with producers nearly 2 weeks behind in Michigan, where heavy rainfall was not conducive to harvest activities. Growers in North Carolina and Texas completed harvest of their crops, while producers in the western Corn Belt and Great plains approached completion. Soybeans: Acreage harvested advanced to 95 percent, 5 percentage points ahead of a year ago and 1 point ahead of normal. Harvest progressed well in Kentucky and North Carolina, where 17 and 13 percent of the crop was harvested during the week, respectively. Producers in the Corn Belt and Mississippi Delta edged closer to completion. Winter Wheat: Planting was 95 percent complete, compared with 92 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Eighty-four percent of the crop was emerged, 1 percentage point behind a year ago but 3 points ahead of normal. Planting steadily advanced in Arkansas, Missouri, and North Carolina. Elsewhere, progress was ahead of normal with most States at or near completion. Emergence progressed rapidly across the Corn Belt, where the crop advanced by 23 points in Illinois, 20 points in Ohio, and 14 or more points in all other States.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 16, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - November 16, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	64	24	43	-2	0.40	5	27.27	-1.25	104	2675	+28	4666
Franklin_AG	62	19	39	-3	0.81	5	37.56	+7.66	142	2342	-67	4308
Meadville	62	21	39	-3	0.74	4	35.92	+5.45	122	2366	+162	4316
Mercer	62	11	35	-7	1.00	5	41.15	+12.67	107	1971	-413	3863
Springboro	62	19	39	-5	1.03	6	35.74	+8.28	119	2199	-388	4112
Warren	61	19	37	-4	1.25	4	39.01	+8.62	119	2324	+1	4255
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	58	14	36	-2	0.77	5	35.80	+5.75	131	1814	+159	3642
Emporium	61	15	36	-4	0.92	6	41.56	+12.01	125	2381	+496	4348
Kane	55	8	30	-8	1.23	3	33.25	+2.44	103	1240	-374	2893
Laporte	53	19	35	-7	0.35	4	40.95	+13.11	113	2074	-303	3892
Lock_Haven	56	18	36	-6	0.42	4	33.79	+6.52	108	2754	+223	4774
Port_Allegany	60	15	36	-3	0.56	5	37.69	+8.96	115	1977	+141	3826
Renovo	61	18	38	-5	0.31	5	33.64	+6.37	118	2614	+83	4631
Ridgway	62	14	36	-4	1.05	5	33.08	+3.53	107	1960	+75	3844
Stevenson_Dam	61	17	38	-3	0.36	4	35.45	+5.90	128	2389	+504	4364
Towanda	65	17	37	-5	0.10	4	35.52	+12.25	126	2410	+12	4343
Wellsboro	60	15	36	-4	0.22	4	33.74	+10.46	107	1976	+196	3797
Williamsport_AP	57	19	40	-4	0.16	2	37.04	+9.57	108	2890	+98	4928
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	59	15	34	-7	0.21	2	34.54	+8.15	96	2120	+79	4015
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	56	20	38	-5	0.21	2	37.41	+11.96	102	2754	+107	4747
Susquehanna	58	18	35	-4	0.42	3	39.73	+11.21	102	2603	+680	4528
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	64	17	39	-4	0.82	5	33.39	+5.52	121	2480	-23	4486
New_Castle	62	19	40	-3	0.95	5	39.50	+13.80	104	2714	+208	4749
Slippery_Rock	64	18	40	-1	0.93	5	41.89	+14.37	117	2593	+351	4620
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	58	20	40	-4	0.34	2	30.51	+5.67	122	2638	-27	4637
Du_Bois	60	20	39	-2	0.67	3	35.77	+7.71	136	2290	+13	4233
Lewistown	60	20	40	-4	0.30	3	34.20	+7.61	100	2969	+39	5039
Middletown	59	24	43	-3	0.36	2	37.86	+11.33	118	3312	-17	5428
Prince_Gallitzi	63	15	38	-4	0.38	3	33.50	+1.89	129	2349	+220	4271
Selinsgrove	57	19	38	-5	0.18	3	34.22	+6.52	107	2790	+70	4815
State_College_P	57	22	39	-4	0.26	4	38.64	+13.51	113	2700	+89	4715
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	59	22	42	-3	0.27	2	40.24	+11.49	100	3154	+116	5229
Lehigh	55	19	38	-7	0.30	3	46.60	+17.83	124	2622	-305	4608
Matamoras	57	17	36	-7	0.24	2	36.82	+7.73	105	2325	-288	4251
Tobyhanna	56	16	35	-3	0.25	2	49.73	+18.24	112	2765	+1020	4678
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	61	27	42	-1	0.57	5	29.10	+3.02	122	3101	+409	5195
Derry	66	21	40	-3	1.19	4	39.43	+12.42	108	2713	+179	4743
Meyersdale	60	15	36	-7	1.55	4	35.56	+6.04	115	2007	-491	3904
Mount_Pleasant	62	18	40	-2	0.74	4	36.54	+5.70	121	2619	+361	4649
Pittsburgh_Intl	62	20	42	-2	0.47	4	28.19	+4.00	114	3035	+215	5107
Rector	54	17	39	-3	1.12	5	36.52	+5.68	114	2654	+396	4679
Waynesburg	62	21	41	-3	2.01	4	41.91	+15.53	119	2766	+169	4826
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	58	21	40	-6	0.64	3	40.33	+15.03	123	3069	-187	5153
Everett	58	14	36	-7	0.38	2	34.18	+9.73	112	2554	-104	4504
Hanover	59	19	42	-5	0.82	3	43.01	+17.71	102	3102	-154	5189
Shippensburg	59	19	41	-5	0.42	2	34.63	+9.98	96	3225	-18	5322
South_Mountain	57	17	37	-7	0.97	3	41.80	+16.96	105	2449	-204	4407
York_AP	62	19	43	-4	0.73	2	34.76	+7.99	111	3164	-90	5259
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	59	20	41	-4	0.45	2	46.34	+18.43	105	3309	+417	5411
Hamburg	56	22	41	-2	0.44	2	40.62	+8.22	112	3006	+399	5061
Hopewell	58	19	40	-7	0.43	2	42.34	+13.22	105	2965	-481	5007
Lancaster_AP	58	22	43	-3	0.40	2	33.38	+5.35	101	3170	+104	5263
Neshaminy_Falls	58	28	43	-2	0.42	2	35.16	+3.33	96	3425	+401	5536
New_Holland	58	24	42	-3	0.46	2	42.15	+14.12	106	3166	+100	5257
Philadelphia	58	28	46	-3	0.42	2	29.63	+2.72	92	3924	+349	6089
Philadelphia_NE	60	24	45	-3	0.04	1	32.64	+5.73	101	3567	-8	5699
Reading_AP	59	21	42	-3	0.36	2	34.96	+5.14	105	3246	+246	5325
Valley_Forge_Na	62	17	41	-6	0.41	2	43.05	+13.93	104	3104	-342	5163
Willow_Grove	58	24	45	+0	0.42	2	29.58	-2.25	94	3319	+295	5439

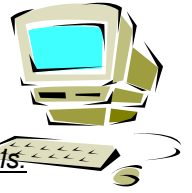
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*



"Snow and rain kept field conditions too wet to do any significant crop harvesting in the latter part of last week."

- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"First snow flakes during the week, and high winds did some tree damage. Harvesting going good."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"A lot of wind and a little snow this week, just busy getting ready for winter."

- M.K., Huntington County

"Heavy winds over the last 2 days have done some serious damage to farm buildings in local areas and have totally flattened much of the corn that was left standing from previous storms. Soybeans continue to ripen unevenly."

- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

"Most soybeans are harvested. Corn harvest is continuing with excellent yields still being reported. Some manure is being hauled but many fields are still too wet for spreading."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Overall, a poor year for field crops. Corn and beans were hurt early on with poor growing conditions, which resulted in higher than normal damage from deer and geese. Corn populations just aren't where they should be at harvest - many gaps in the rows. Beans look good from the road, but are not yielding as expected. The quality of the hay crop was poor due to the constant rains. Overall a down year, less than 70% of "average".

- Fournier, Bucks County

"Another wet week kept almost everyone out of the field all week."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"All our corn is now harvested. There is still lots left in the field due to Isabel and lots of stalk rot."

- Axel Linde, Lancaster County

"Wild windy weather beat up corn that remained in the field. Corn and soybean harvest continued to progress slowly as farmers still needed to pick their spots to avoid getting stuck. Yields are a bit less than expected."

- Andrew Frankenfield,
Montgomery County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 16, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	70	79	84
Corn, harvested	76	89	83
Winter wheat, planted	95	98	97
Winter wheat, emerged	87	86	89
Soybeans, harvested	66	61	82
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	92	90	96
Apples, harvested	98	98	98

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 16, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Winter Wheat	0	0	14	69	17
Quality of hay made	31	16	36	15	2
Pasture conditions	14	20	27	30	9

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